

SPINE-TINGLING TALES OF MYSTERY AND SUSPENSE

ANC



WEB OF EVIL

10c

AUGUST No. 17

**TERROR IN
CHINATOWN**



**Avenging
GHOSTS**

**RETURN
OF THE DEAD**

**THE FIEND
WHO
LIVED
FOREVER**



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WEB OF EVIL

RETURN ^{OF} THE DEAD

NO, NO! YOU CAN'T
BE ALIVE... I
BROUGHT ONLY YOUR
BRAIN IMPULSES
BACK TO LIFE!

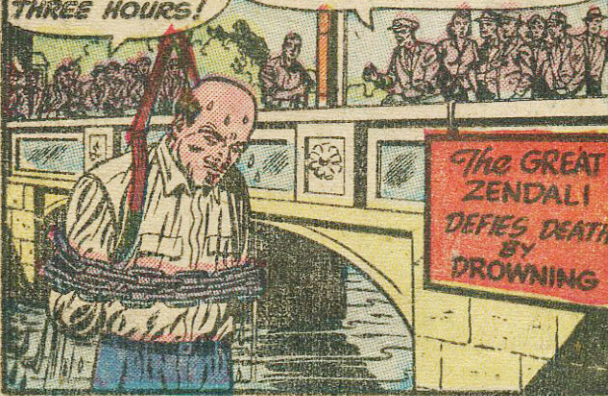
SWINE! YOU'VE STOLEN
THE THOUGHTS OF A
DEAD MAN LONG ENOUGH!
IT'S TIME A RECKONING
WAS HAD!

*SERGE LAMONT CRINGED
BEFORE THE GENIUS OF
HIS OWN CREATION! FOR
THE MADMAN HAD FOUND
A WAY TO REACH BEYOND
THE GRAVE AND STEAL
THE MIND OF THE GREAT
ZENDALI! BUT THE
DECEASED MAGICIAN
ROSE FROM THE DEAD
IN ANGER SEEKING
VENGEANCE...
VENGEANCE UPON THE
ONE WHO DARED
STEAL HIS SECRETS!*

A BRIDGE OVER THE THAMES RIVER IN ENGLAND IS THE SCENE OF MUCH EXCITEMENT AS THE GREAT ZENDALI PERFORMS...

G-GREAT SCOTT! HE'S BEEN UNDER THE WATER FOR THREE HOURS!

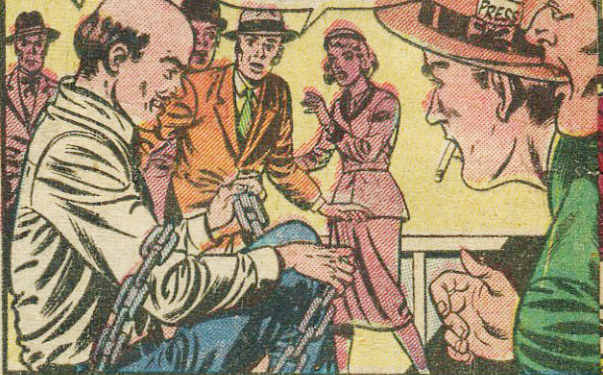
A-AND WITH HIS ARMS AND LEGS CHAINED! HOW CAN ANYONE LIVE THROUGH THAT? HE MUST BE DROWNED!



BUT ZENDALI DOES LIVE... HIS EYES FLUTTER OPEN... THE COLOR RETURNS TO HIS CHEEKS!

THUS, I RETURN FROM MY WATERY GRAVE! I MERELY KISSED DEATH LIGHTLY ON THE CHEEK TO SHOW MY SCORN FOR HER!

R-REMARKABLE!



ZENDALI... YOU CLAIM YOU'LL RETURN FROM THE GRAVE THREE MONTHS AFTER DEATH! ISN'T THAT A FANTASTIC STATEMENT... EVEN FOR THE GREAT ZENDALI?

SCOFF IF YOU WISH... BUT WHEN THE TIME COMES I WILL RETURN TO LIFE!

FRAUD!



YOU ARE A MASTER WIZARD, ZENDALI, WITH MANY STRANGE POWERS... BUT I ALONE HAVE MEANS TO MAKE CONTACT WITH THE DEAD! TONIGHT... TONIGHT THE WORLD OF SCIENCE SHALL ACCLAIM MY GENIUS AS I COMMUNICATE WITH THE DEAD!



THAT NIGHT, TWO MEN OF SCIENCE CALL UPON SERGE LAMONT!

MR. CHARLES, MR. CUNNINGHAM... COME IN, COME IN! YOU ARE EXACTLY ON TIME! I HAVE BEEN WAITING!

MR. LAMONT, THIS IS MOST IRREGULAR! WE ACCEPTED YOUR INVITATION ONLY BECAUSE OF THE URGENCY OF YOUR NOTE!



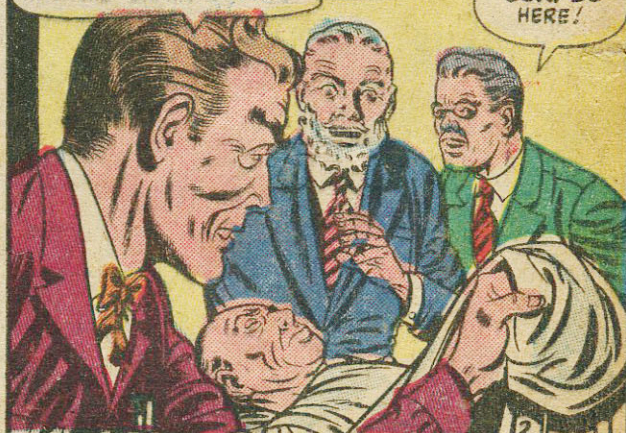
NOW, REGARDING THIS FANTASTIC CLAIM OF YOURS THAT YOU ARE ABLE TO RECORD BRAIN WAVES OF THE DEAD...

AH, YES, MR. CUNNINGHAM! I AM QUITE READY TO PROVE MY THEORY TO YOU BEFORE YOUR VERY EYES!

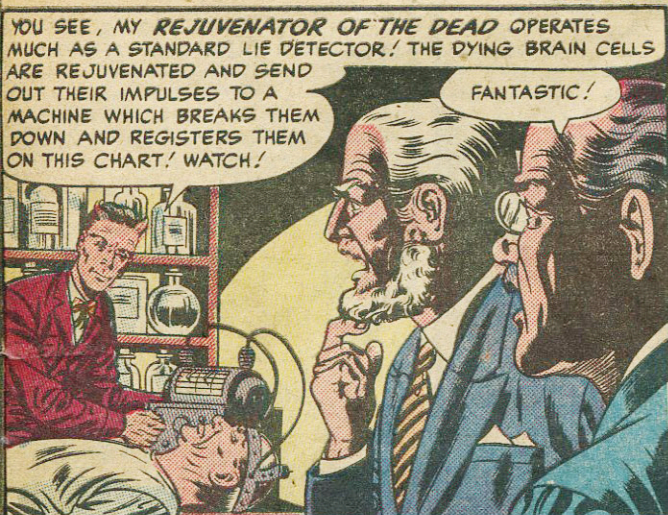


THE SUBJECT... A MAN DEAD FOR TWELVE HOURS! THROUGH RADIUM ACTIVATED ELECTRODES I SHALL MAKE CONTACT WITH HIS BRAIN CELLS!

GOOD GRIEF! HE'S GOT A CORPSE HERE!



WEB OF EVIL



YOU SEE, MY **REJUVENATOR OF THE DEAD** OPERATES MUCH AS A STANDARD LIE DETECTOR! THE DYING BRAIN CELLS ARE REJUVENATED AND SEND OUT THEIR IMPULSES TO A MACHINE WHICH BREAKS THEM DOWN AND REGISTERS THEM ON THIS CHART! WATCH!

FANTASTIC!



LISTEN TO ME, SHELLY... I AM THE VOICE OF THE LIVING! YOU MUST ANSWER MY QUESTIONS! **HOW DID YOU DIE, SHELLY? HOW DID YOU DIE?**

SLOWLY, SLOWLY, THE GRAPH NEEDLE BEGINS TO MOVE! THEN, SUDDENLY, IT ZIG ZAGS RAPIDLY ACROSS THE CHART!

SEE! SEE! HE IS ANSWERING ME! NOW I BREAK DOWN THE GRAPH CODE AND IT GIVES ME THE ANSWER... I WAS... HIT... BY... A... TRUCK, HE SAYS!

GREAT HEAVENS, THIS MAN IS A CRACKPOT! HE'S CLAIMING **MENTAL CONTACT** WITH A DEAD MAN! IT'S ALL A FAKE!



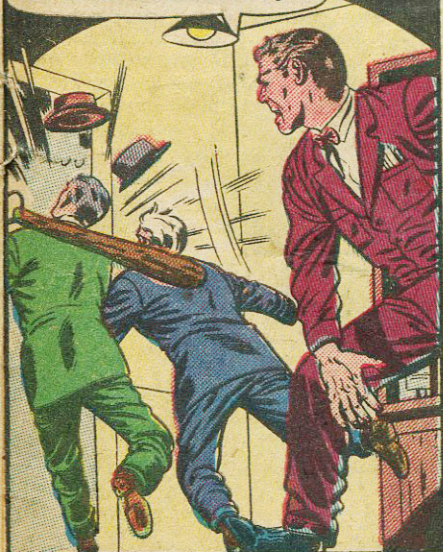
YOU MAD FIEND! MENTAL RESPONSE FROM A DEAD MAN IS IMPOSSIBLE AND YOU HAVE NO AUTHORITY TO HAVE A CORPSE IN YOUR POSSESSION!

THIS IS A MATTER FOR THE POLICE!

NO, NO! I TELL YOU I **HAVE** FOUND A WAY TO CONTACT LIVING CELLS OF DEAD BRAINS!



SWINE! YOU'LL NOT INFORM THE POLICE OF **ANYTHING!**



I'M YEARS AHEAD OF YOU ALL, FOOLS! NOBODY... NOTHING MUST HINDER MY RESEARCH NOW!



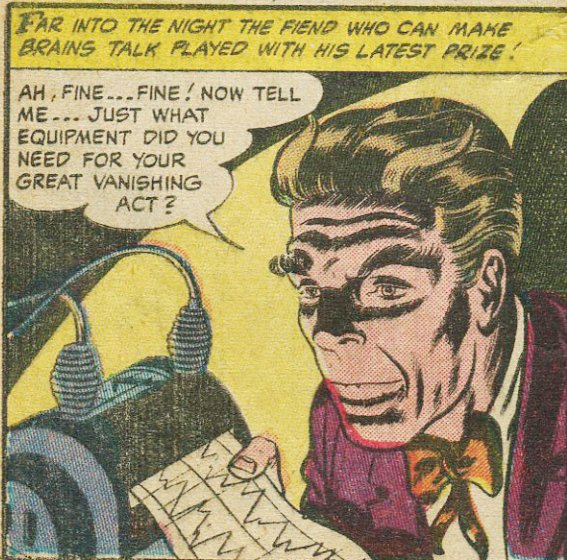
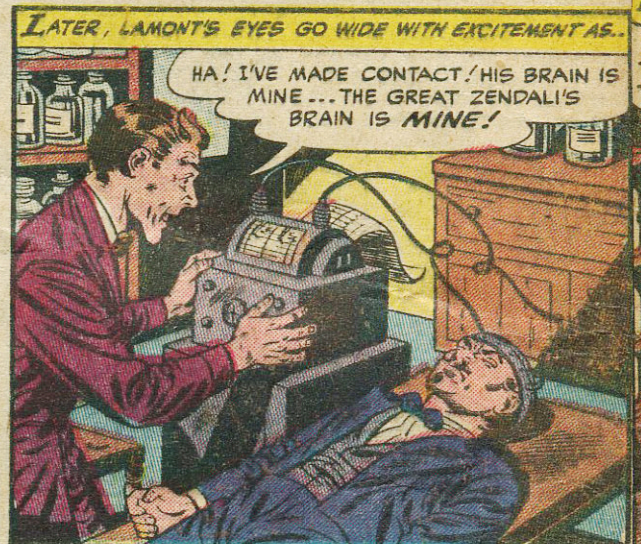
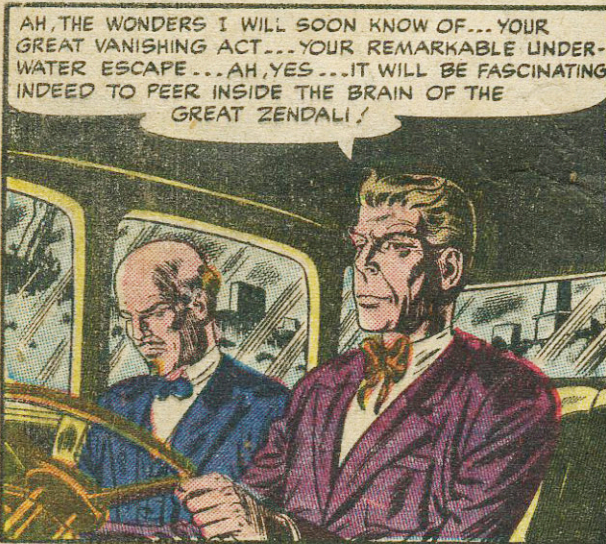
LATER, LAMONT'S FACE IS A MASK OF FURY AS HE WALKS THE STREETS OF LONDON!

THEY'LL NEVER LISTEN TO ME... THEY'LL CALL ME MAD..DEMENTED! HOW COULD I EVER PROVE I'VE INVENTED A CODE TO DECIPHER THE THOUGHTS OF DEAD MEN? AND NOW, I MUST BURY THESE TWO I KILLED!

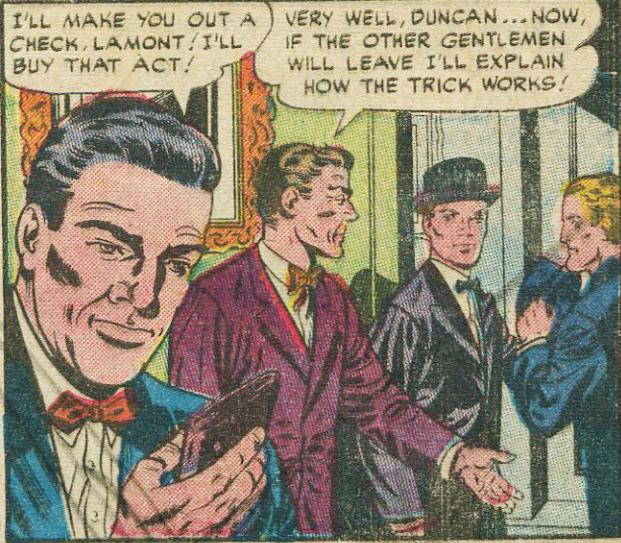
WUX-TREE, WUXTREE... THE GREAT ZENDAL! DIES!



WEB OF EVIL



WEB OF EVIL



SOON AFTER, THE BRAIN ROBBER EMERGES FROM THE DEPTHS OF THE THAMES...

GREAT THUNDER! HE'S DONE IT... STAYED UNDER WATER FOR THREE HOURS!

NO DOUBT ABOUT IT... HIS STUNT IS EVERY BIT AS GOOD AS THE GREAT ZENDALI'S WAS!

I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU'RE DOING IT, LAMONT... BUT I'LL BUY THAT ZENDALI TRICK FOR THE FIFTEEN THOUSAND YOU ASK!

YOU'RE A WISE MAN... TOMORROW IT WOULD HAVE COST YOU TWENTY GRAND, MR. EATON!

AGAIN AND AGAIN LAMONT SELLS HIS STOLEN SKILLS...

IT'S BEEN EXACTLY TWENTY FOUR HOURS... PULL IN THE SACK! THERE'S NO POSSIBLE WAY HE COULD HAVE GOTTEN OUT OF THAT SACK!

P-PILLOWS!

L-LOOK! THERE HE IS NOW! GREAT THUNDER! H-HE GET OUT!

GOOD AFTERNOON, GENTLEMEN! HOW MUCH AM I BID FOR THE VANISHING SACK TRICK?

REPORTERS FLOCK ABOUT THE ASTONISHING SERGE LAMONT!

MR. LAMONT... HOW IS IT YOU MANAGE TO DUPLICATE SO MANY OF MR. THE GREAT ZENDALI'S TRICKS?

WHY IS IT YOU DON'T GO ON THE STAGE YOURSELF WITH THEM?

HA! THOSE ARE MY SECRETS! LET US SAY THE STAGE DOES NOT APPEAL TO ME!

SIR... TONIGHT AT MIDNIGHT WILL BE EXACTLY THREE MONTHS SINCE ZENDALI'S DEATH! DO YOU THINK IT'S POSSIBLE HE CAN KEEP HIS PROMISE TO... RETURN TO LIFE?

CERTAINLY NOT, MY FRIEND! SUCH MIRACLES EVEN THE GREAT ZENDALI CANNOT PERFORM! NOW EXCUSE ME... I HAVE MANY THINGS TO DO!

LATER...

AH, GOOD EVENING, MY FRIEND! HAS IT BEEN LONG-SOME WITHOUT ME? HA, HA! WELL, AS A MATTER OF FACT I'M GOING TO LEAVE YOU FOR A SPELL!

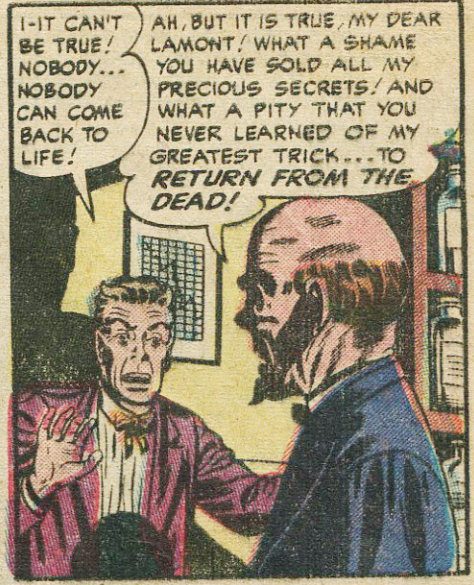


IT'S BEEN RATHER STRENUOUS
DUPLICATING YOUR STUNTS! I'M
GOING TO TAKE A VACATION!



AFTER ALL, EACH DAY YOU
ROT AWAY A BIT MORE,
ZENDALI, AND I DO NEED
A CHANGE...

YAAA!



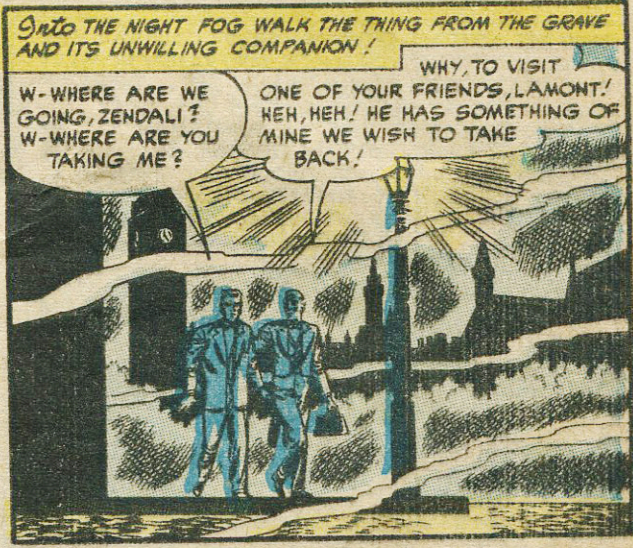
I-IT CAN'T
BE TRUE!
NOBODY...
NOBODY
CAN COME
BACK TO
LIFE!

AH, BUT IT IS TRUE, MY DEAR
LAMONT! WHAT A SHAME
YOU HAVE SOLD ALL MY
PRECIOUS SECRETS! AND
WHAT A PITY THAT YOU
NEVER LEARNED OF MY
GREATEST TRICK... TO
RETURN FROM THE
DEAD!



MERCY, MERCY!
I-I DIDN'T THINK
YOU COULD
RETURN!
ZENDALI!
DON'T KILL
ME!

BE CALM, LAMONT! I AM NOT
GOING TO KILL YOU! WE HAVE
WORK TO DO TOGETHER! I MUST
SEE THAT YOU UNDO THE HARM
YOU HAVE DONE
ME! NOW...
LET US GO!



INTO THE NIGHT FOG WALK THE THING FROM THE GRAVE
AND ITS UNWILLING COMPANION!

W-WHERE ARE WE
GOING, ZENDALI?
W-WHERE ARE YOU
TAKING ME?

WHY, TO VISIT
ONE OF YOUR FRIENDS, LAMONT!
HEH, HEH! HE HAS SOMETHING OF
MINE WE WISH TO TAKE
BACK!



THEN... EH! GOOD
GRIEF...
WHAT'S THAT? OH, IT'S
YOU, LAMONT! WHAT IN
THUNDER KIND OF
TRICK IS THIS?

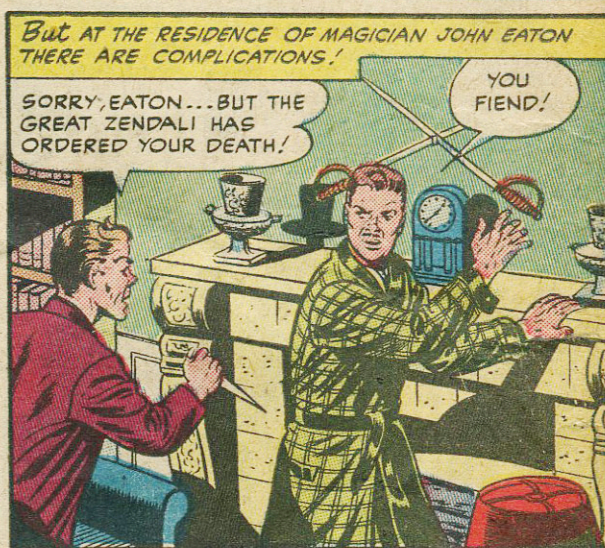
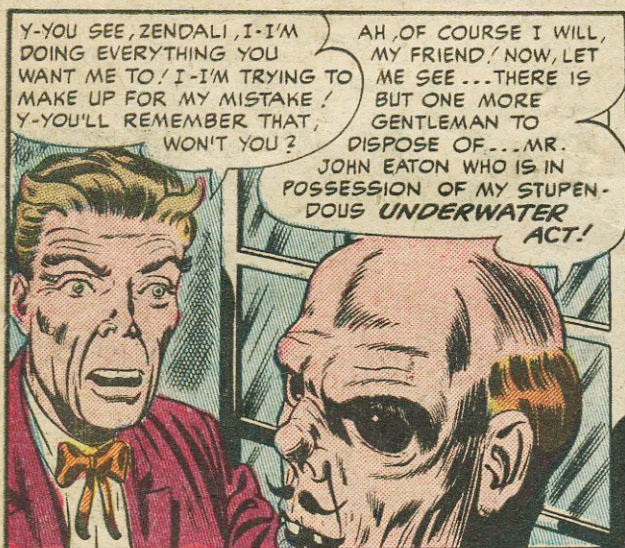
I...I...
AH, DUNCAN...
MY APPEARANCE
SEEMS TO
SHOCK YOU!



I AM THE GREAT ZENDALI... RETURNED FROM THE GRAVE
AS PROMISED! HOWEVER, THERE
HAS BEEN A SLIGHT ERROR...
THIS MAN HAS GIVEN YOU
SOMETHING OF MINE THAT I
MUST TAKE BACK! KILL
HIM, LAMONT!

B-BUT... GREAT
HEAVENS!
T-THAT
VOICE... IT IS
ZENDALI!

WEB OF EVIL



W-WE'RE DONE! ALL YOUR SECRETS ARE SAFE NOW, ZENDALI! CAN I GO AWAY NOW?

NOT QUITE YET, MY FRIEND! COME, WE MUST VISIT THE FINE OLD CEMETERY WHERE I WAS BURIED!

Then, AS THE PAIR REACH THE GRAVEYARD...

Y-YOU WANT ME TO D-DIG OPEN YOUR GRAVE? OH-H, I UNDERSTAND! YOU WANT TO RETURN, EH, ZENDALI!

DIG! DIG, MY FRIEND!

HEH, HEH! OF COURSE... YOU PROVED YOUR POINT BY RETURNING TO LIFE... N-NOW YOU WANT TO GO BACK TO YOUR RESTING PLACE! HEH, HEH, IT'S ONLY NATURAL!

T-THERE IT IS... JUST LIKE I LEFT IT! I-I WAS SMART OF ME TO DIG YOU UP, EH, ZENDALI? I-IT MADE IT EASY FOR YOU TO COME BACK TO LIFE!

HELP ME DOWN, LAMONT!

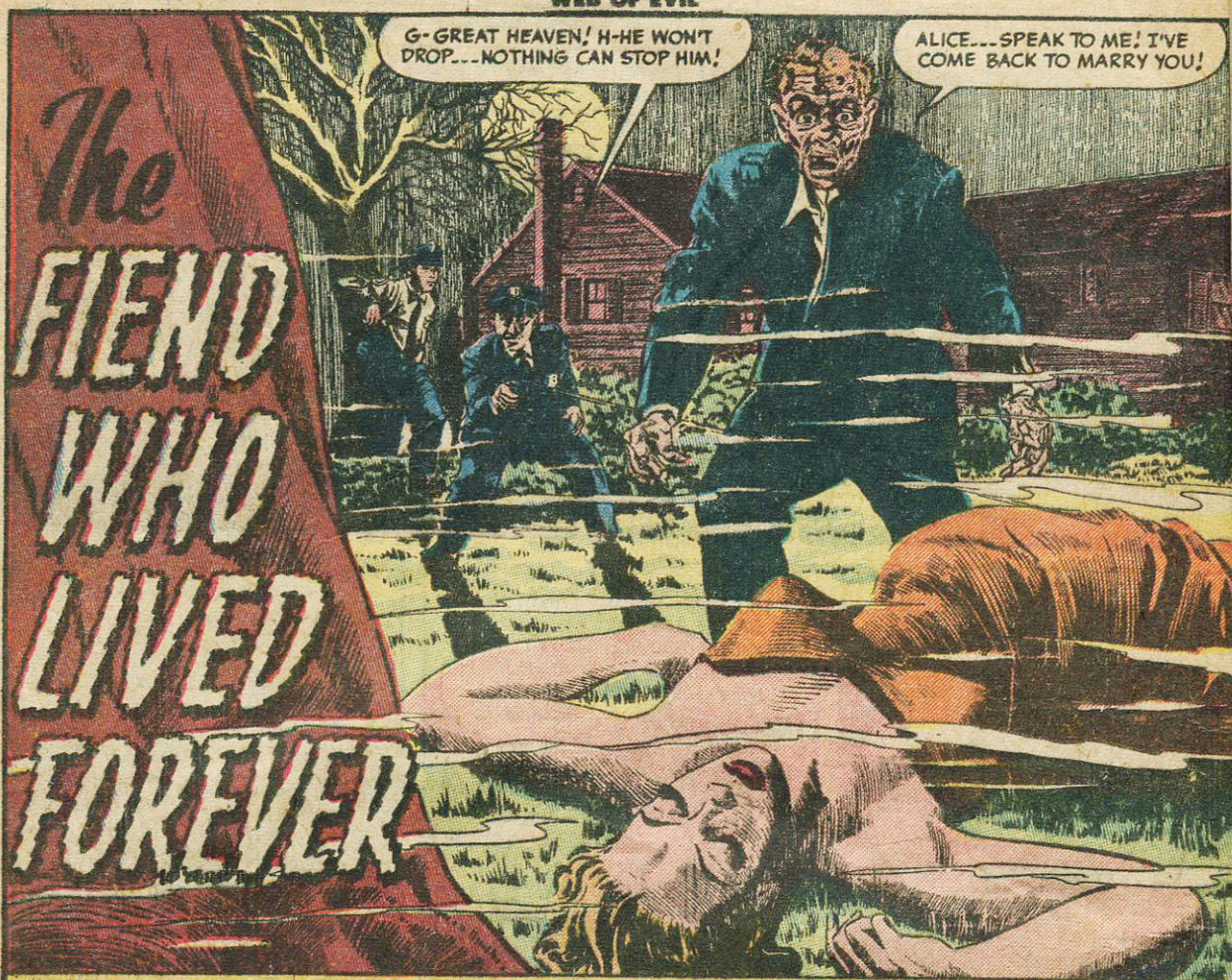
I-I PROMISE I'LL FORGET ALL ABOUT YOUR SECRETS A-AND... ZENDALI! DON'T... LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT!

FOOL! YOU'RE GOING TO REST IN THE GRAVE TOO... WITH ME!

NO! NO! D-DON'T TAKE ME WITH YOU! PLEASE...

ZENDALI

1901
1954



G-GREAT HEAVEN! H-HE WON'T DROP...NOTHING CAN STOP HIM!

ALICE...SPEAK TO ME! I'VE COME BACK TO MARRY YOU!

The FIEND WHO LIVED FOREVER

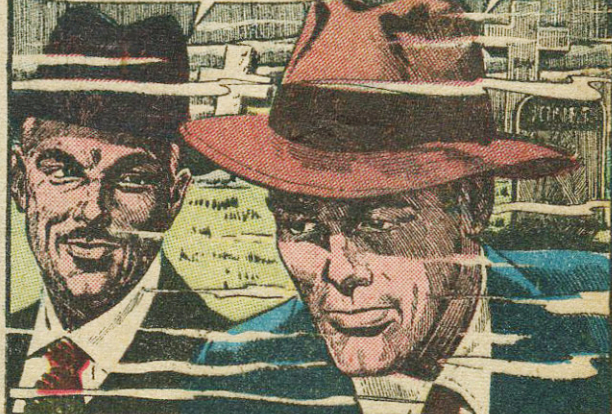
IT WAS A PLAN OF GENIUS... A MASTERPIECE OF SCIENTIFIC ACCOMPLISHMENT! REED PERRY HAD TAMPERED WITH SOMETHING BEYOND THE SCOPE OF MAN AND THRUST OPEN THE DOOR TO THE GREAT UNKNOWN... BUT THERE, ON THE THRESHOLD OF DEATH ITSELF THE GRIM REAPER CHUCKLED AND PLAYED THE TRUMP CARD THAT SEALED REED'S DOOM FOREVER!

IN THE DIM LIGHT OF DAWN, RESEARCH CHEMIST, REED PERRY, WATCHES GRIMLY AS A BODY IS LOWERED INTO ITS GRAVE!

REST AT PEACE, GUS... YOUR DEATH WAS NOT IN VAIN! SOON... SOON, BECAUSE OF THE HELP OF YOURSELF AND OTHERS, I SHALL HAVE MASTERED THE GREATEST MYSTERY IN THE UNIVERSE!

IT WAS INDEED KIND OF YOU TO INDULGE YOUR HANDYMAN IN SUCH A FINE FUNERAL SERVICE, MR. PERRY! EVEN A MAN WITHOUT HOME OR FAMILY IS ENTITLED TO LEAVE THIS WORLD PROPERLY!

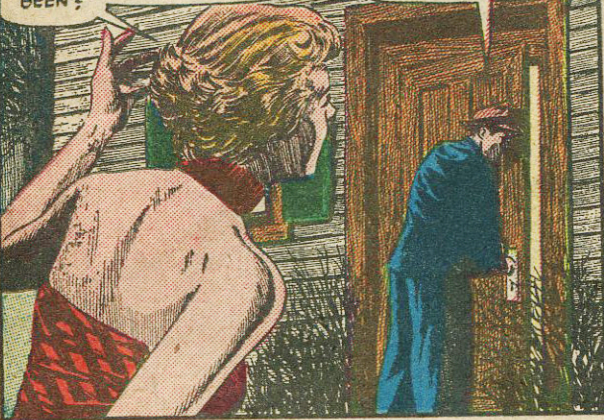
YES, INDEED... GUS WAS A MAN OF KINDNESS... I AM HAPPY THAT I WAS ABLE TO HELP!



LATER, AS PERRY REACHES HIS LABORATORY....

REED... REED! I'VE BEEN TRYING TO REACH YOU FOR DAYS! WHERE ON EARTH HAVE YOU BEEN?

ALICE! I...TOLD YOU NOT TO BOTHER ME UNTIL I CALLED YOU!



OH, DARLING, YOU'VE BEEN SO STRANGE THESE LAST FEW MONTHS! CAN'T YOU TELL ME WHAT IS WRONG? WHY...CAN'T WE SEE EACH OTHER AS WE USED TO?

IF YOU LOVE ME, YOU'LL DO AS I WISH, ALICE! I'M WORKING ON A VITAL EXPERIMENT FOR A BIG COMPANY! I **MUST** HAVE ABSOLUTE PEACE AND QUIET! NOW... PLEASE LEAVE!



THE RESEARCHER ENTERS A MACABRE LABORATORY....

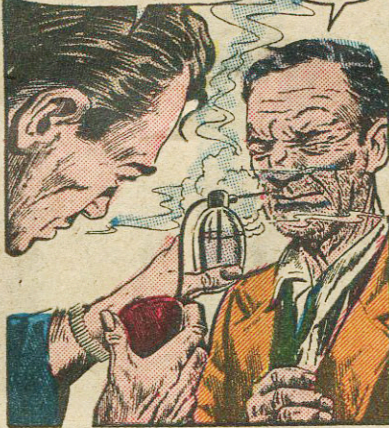
PLEASE, PLEASE, MR. PERRY...HAVE DONE WITH WHATEVER YOU INTEND TO DO WITH ME! I-I CAN STAND THIS PLACE ANY LONGER!

VERY WELL, HARRY!



YOUR LIFE WAS A WORTHLESS THING UNTIL NOW, HARRY...I HAVE GIVEN YOU THE OPPORTUNITY TO SACRIFICE YOURSELF FOR SCIENCE! HERE...BREATHE DEEPLY OF THE FUMES!

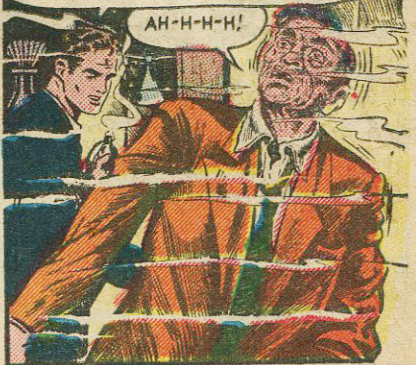
Y-YES, MR. PERRY!



THE FOAMING GAS FLOWS DOWN THE BOWERY DERELICT'S THROAT! HIS FACE CONTORTS...HIS BODY BECOMES RIGID!

EXCELLENT...

EXCELLENT! THE MUSCLES ARE CONSTRICTING PERFECTLY...THEY ARE FREE FROM PAIN...HARRY'S SINEWS ARE IMMUNE TO DEATH!



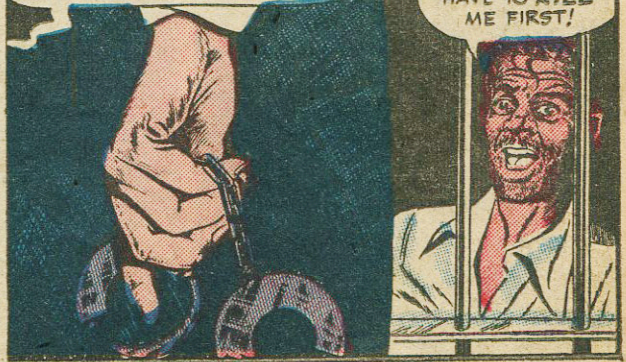
WHY, YOU LYING BUTCHER... HE'S DEAD NOW... JUST LIKE GUS IS!

YES, PETER... HE IS DEAD... BUT HIS **MUSCLES** ARE STILL ALIVE!



YOU SEE, PETER, MY EXPERIMENTS HAVE NOT FAILED, ALTHOUGH MY SUBJECTS DIED! MY TESTS KEPT GUS' **NERVES** ALIVE! HARRY'S **SINEWS** STILL HAVE LIFE...AND NOW, I NEED ONLY KEEP THE HEART INVULNERABLE TO DEATH AND MY PATTERN IS COMPLETE... A **MAN WHO CANNOT DIE!**

GET BACK, YOU, MONSTER! I'LL NOT SUBMIT TO YOUR FIENDISH TESTS LIKE THE OTHERS! YOU'LL HAVE TO KILL ME FIRST!





HARDLY, PETER... THAT WOULD SPOIL ALL MY PLANS! I HAVE PREPARED FOR YOUR STRENGTH AND HATRED OF ME! THERE!

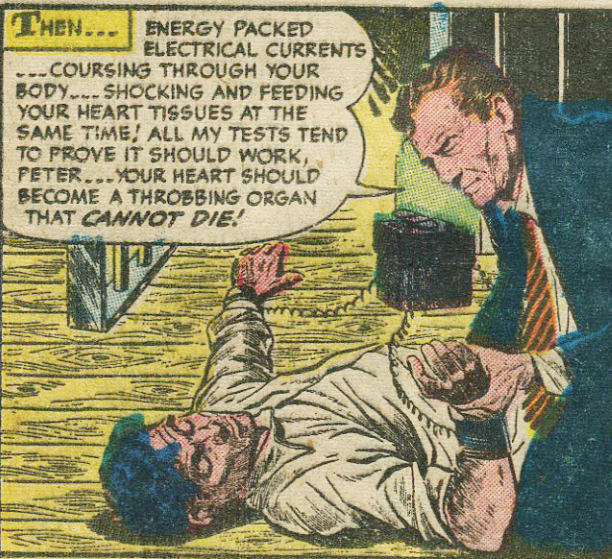
WHA...?



ABRUPTLY, THE MAN WHO SEEKS TO BREAK THE BARRIER OF LIFE ITSELF CLOSES A CIRCUIT AND...

WILLINGLY, OR UNWILLINGLY YOU SHALL ASSIST ME, PETER!

YIIIIII!!

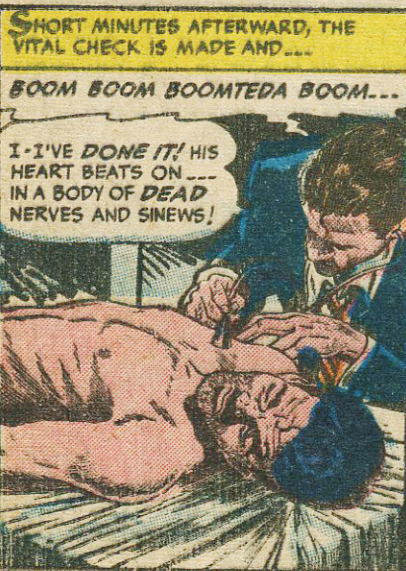


THEN... ENERGY PACKED ELECTRICAL CURRENTS... COURSE THROUGH YOUR BODY... SHOCKING AND FEEDING YOUR HEART TISSUES AT THE SAME TIME! ALL MY TESTS TEND TO PROVE IT SHOULD WORK, PETER... YOUR HEART SHOULD BECOME A THROBBING ORGAN THAT CANNOT DIE!

REED PERRY'S EYES WIDEN WITH EXCITEMENT AS HIS BIZARRE CURRENT OF "LIFE" PENETRATES PETER'S BODY!



NOW, NOW... IT MUST WORK! IT MUST! OTHERS BEFORE ME HAVE SOUGHT LIFE'S GREATEST SECRET... BUT I AM THE MAN WHO CAN FULLY SUCCEED!



SHORT MINUTES AFTERWARD, THE VITAL CHECK IS MADE AND...

BOOM BOOM BOOMTEDA BOOM...

I-I'VE DONE IT! HIS HEART BEATS ON... IN A BODY OF DEAD NERVES AND SINEWS!



THAT NIGHT, THE RESEARCHER'S "MIRACLE" BEGINS...

NERVES, SINEWS... AND A HEART THAT CANNOT DIE! I SHALL HAVE ALL THREE OF THEM... I SHALL BE THE FIRST MAN THAT DEATH CANNOT PLACE A BONY FINGER UPON!



AND AFTERWARD...

HA, HA, HEE, HEE! NOTHING CAN KILL ME NOW... NOTHING!

NEXT MORNING, THE MAN WHO CANNOT DIE PONDER'S DEEPLY BEFORE THE SCIENCE INSTITUTE!

WAIT, YOU FOOL... WHAT WORLDLY GOOD WILL ALL THE PLAUDITS OF SCIENCE BRING YOU! WITH MY GREAT GIFT I COULD BE RICH... NO BULLETS CAN KILL ME... NO ACCIDENT CAN END MY LIFE! YES... FIRST I SHALL ENJOY MY GENIUS TO THE FULLEST... BEFORE GIVING IT TO THE WORLD!



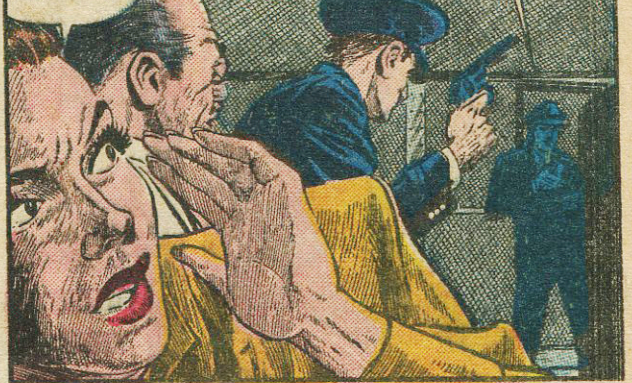
A BRAZEN FIGURE STALKS TO THE CITY BANK AND...

G-GREAT THUNDER! THAT MAN MUST BE MAD!

STOP! STOP OR I'LL SHOOT!

HA, HA!

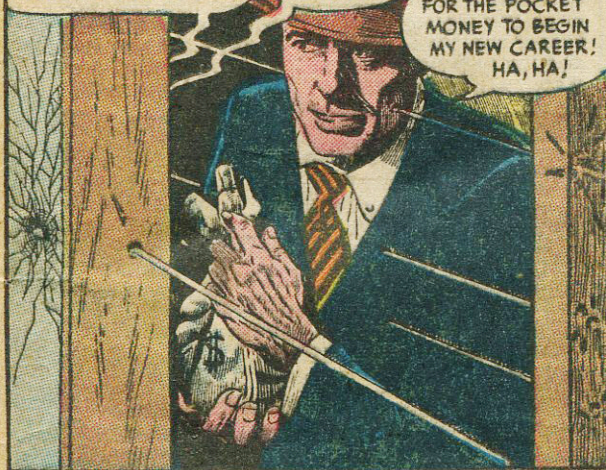
EEEEEE!



H-HE DOESN'T FALL... A-AND I'VE HIT HIM HALF A DOZEN TIMES!

GUARD! GUARD! SHOOT THAT MAN!

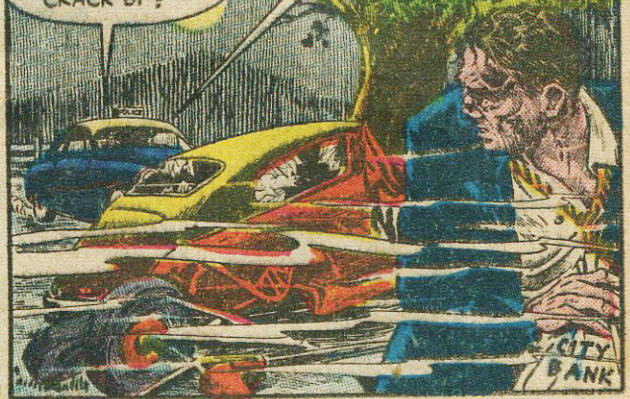
FAREWELL, FRIENDS! THANK YOU FOR THE POCKET MONEY TO BEGIN MY NEW CAREER! HA, HA!



THUS, THE RACE IS ON! THE MAN WHO OUTFRONS DEATH DEFIES THE LAW OF LIFE!

I-IT'S IMPOSSIBLE... HOW COULD ANYONE LIVE THROUGH THAT CRACK-UP?

GOOD GRIEF! THAT CRASH WHILE HE WAS ESCAPING WOULD HAVE KILLED ANY OTHER MAN!



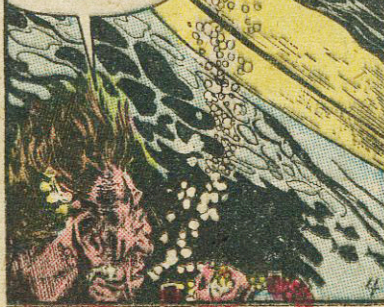
SMOKE AND FLAME CANNOT SEAR LIFE FROM REED PERRY...

YIIII! T-THERE'S THE ARSON THIEF... B-BUT THE FLAMES AREN'T HARMING HIM!



NOR CAN KING NEPTUNE'S BLACK, COLD DEPTHS CAPTURE PERRY!

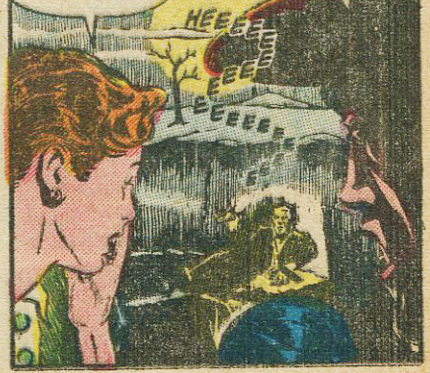
THE FOOLS ARE HELPLESS! HA! HA! SOON, ALICE, SOON I SHALL HAVE ALL THE WEALTH WE NEED! THEN I SHALL MAKE YOU TOO INVULNERABLE TO DEATH... AND WE SHALL LIVE THROUGH ETERNITY TOGETHER WITHOUT A CARE!

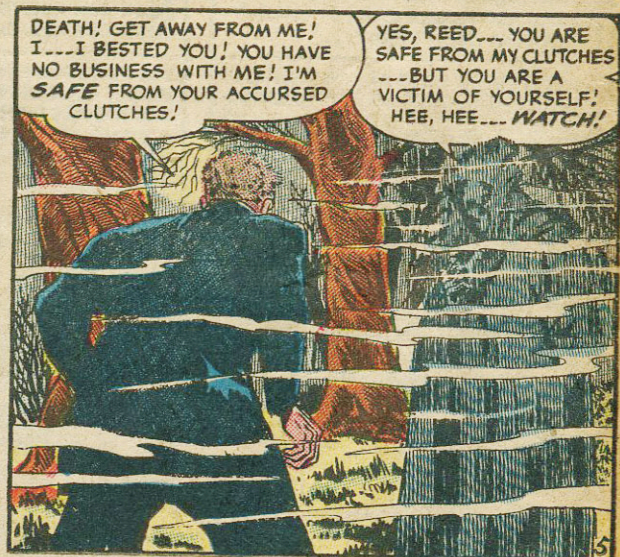
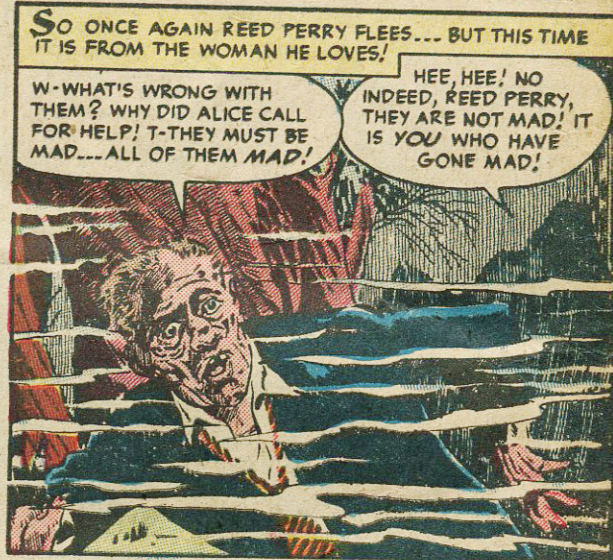


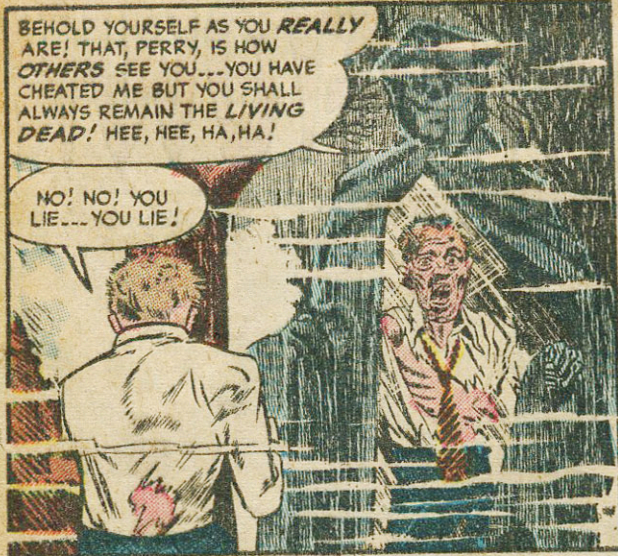
NOR CAN THE SHEER PRECIPICE THAT THREATENS MORTAL MAN DESTROY HIM!

I-IT WAS GHASTLY... H-HE SNATCHED THE WEEK-END RECEIPTS AND... AND PLUNGED OVER THE CLIFF! L-LOOK...

G-GREAT GLORY! H-HE MUST BE INHUMAN... WHAT A CREATURE!







BEHOLD YOURSELF AS YOU **REALLY** ARE! THAT, PERRY, IS HOW **OTHERS** SEE YOU...YOU HAVE CHEATED ME BUT YOU SHALL ALWAYS REMAIN THE **LIVING DEAD!** HEE, HEE, HA, HA!

NO! NO! YOU LIE...YOU LIE!



LIES! LIES! LEAVE ME ALONE! I'LL PROVE YOU'RE **WRONG!**

RUN, PERRY, RUN! YOU CAN'T SEE YOUR UGLY MANGLED BODY FOR YOUR EYES ARE THE EYES OF THE DEAD... BUT, HEH, HEH, **OTHERS** CAN, PERRY!



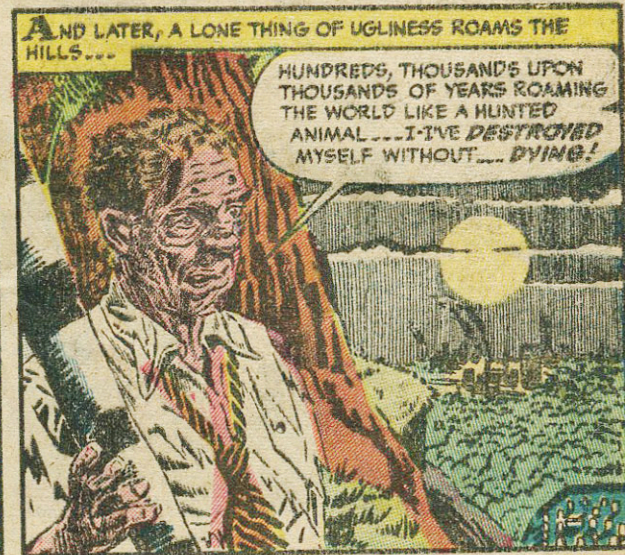
THEN...

YIPE! A-A MONSTER!

OH-H-H-H!

EEEEEEEE!

I-IT'S TRUE... I AM A **MONSTER!**



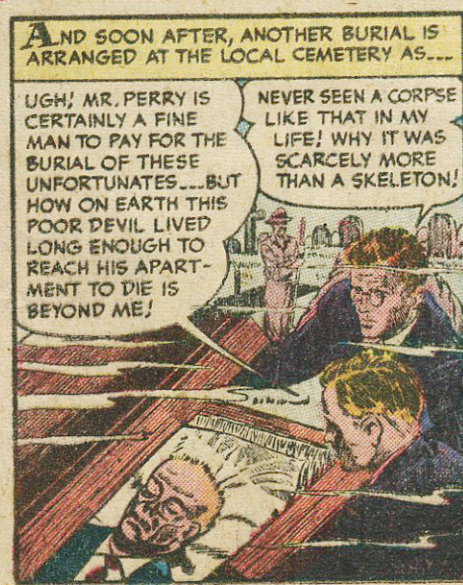
AND LATER, A LONE THING OF UGLINESS ROAMS THE HILLS...

HUNDREDS, THOUSANDS UPON THOUSANDS OF YEARS ROAMING THE WORLD LIKE A HUNTED ANIMAL... I'VE **DESTROYED** MYSELF WITHOUT... **DYING!**



ONLY... ONE THING TO DO... ONE THING!

YIIIIIIIIII!



AND SOON AFTER, ANOTHER BURIAL IS ARRANGED AT THE LOCAL CEMETERY AS...

UGH! MR. PERRY IS CERTAINLY A FINE MAN TO PAY FOR THE BURIAL OF THESE UNFORTUNATES... BUT HOW ON EARTH THIS POOR DEVIL LIVED LONG ENOUGH TO REACH HIS APARTMENT TO DIE IS BEYOND ME!

NEVER SEEN A CORPSE LIKE THAT IN MY LIFE! WHY IT WAS SCARCELY MORE THAN A SKELETON!



NOW, SIMMS, GET A GRIP ON YOURSELF! FORGET THAT STUPID NONSENSE ABOUT SEEING A GHOST LAST NIGHT AND GET TO WORK! THAT BODY HAS TO BE BURIED!

SOBE! SOBE!

OF COURSE, SIMMS! YOU KNOW DEAD MEN DON'T COME TO LIFE!

YES, SIR!

WEB OF EVIL

TERROR *in* CHINATOWN



THEY CAME OUT OF THE LONG DEAD PAST... SPECTRES OF DEATH THAT REACHED OUT WITH GROPING HANDS FOR AUGUST LAMONT! FOR THE FAMED BOOK COLLECTOR HAD UNWITTINGLY GIVEN THEM A GRIM INVITATION TO SEIZE HIS SOUL...AND NOTHING COULD TURN THEM BACK!

NO, NO! GO BACK... I-I PROMISE TO RETURN THE ACCURSED BOOK TO ITS RIGHTFUL RESTING PLACE!

WITHIN HIS VAST LIBRARY OF ANCIENT BOOKS, COLLECTOR AUGUST LAMONT PACES FRANTICALLY!

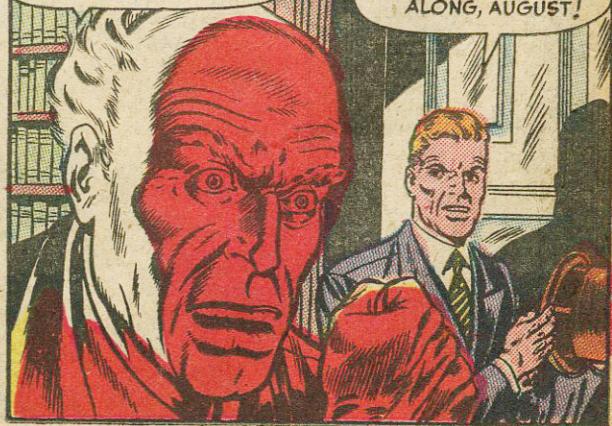
GOOD GRIEF, AUGUST...WHY THIS MAD FUSS ABOUT ONE BOOK? YOU HAVE THOUSANDS IN YOUR COLLECTIONS... SOME OF THE GREATEST WORKS OF HISTORY!

YES, YES, ARTHUR... BUT THE GREATEST OF ALL ELUDES ME! FOR TWENTY YEARS I'VE HUNTED FOR THE FABULOUS CHINESE WORK CALLED THE BOOK OF THE DEAD!

I KNOW IT'S HERE IN SAN FRANCISCO'S CHINATOWN...BUT THOSE CRAFTY BOOK DEALERS HIDE IT FROM ME! YES, THEY SEEK TO KEEP THE EYES OF THE WORLD FROM SEEING INSIDE ITS COVERS! BUT...I SHALL GET THAT BOOK!

W-WHY, HE'S OBSESSED WITH GETTING THAT GHASTLY WORK! IT'S...TWISTING HIS MIND...

ER, I'D BETTER RUN ALONG, AUGUST!



WEB OF EVIL

LATER, LAMONT SCURRIES INTO A BACK ALLEY IN THE HEART OF CHINATOWN!

SIN LEE HAS THE GREATEST COLLECTION OF BOOKS IN ALL CHINATOWN! IT MUST BE HERE... HIDDEN AMONG HIS MOLDING VOLUMES!



I'LL FIND IT! I'LL TEAR HIS MUSTY STORE TO RIBBONS UNTIL THE BOOK OF THE DEAD IS MINE!



WHERE IS IT? WHERE IS THAT ACCURSED BOOK? I MUST HAVE IT!

YIIII!! MISTY LAMONT...WHAT YOU DO HERE?



WHY YOU BREAK IN WINDOW, MISTY LAMONT?

YOU KNOW WHY I'M HERE, SIN LEE! I'VE COME FOR THE BOOK OF THE DEAD! YOU'VE BEEN HIDING IT FROM ME... WHERE IS IT? SPEAK UP!



SUDDENLY, LAMONT'S EYES GLEAM LIKE A WILD ANIMAL'S! HIS HAND SNATCHES THE GLOWING FLASH-LIGHT AND...

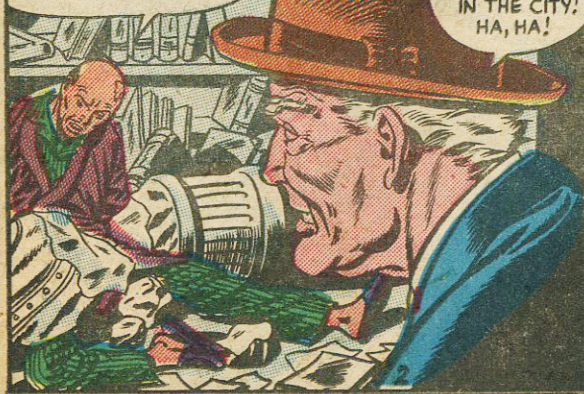
TELL ME! TELL ME!

OH-H-H-H-H!



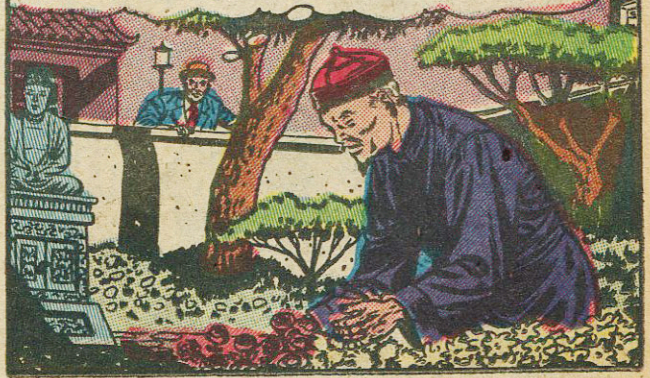
Y-YOU SEEK MUCH... HORROR... SIN LEE... TRY TO SAVE YOU... NOW I TELL... OLD LUNG FONG HAVE BOOK... HE KEEP IN... IN GARDEN SHRINE!... AH-H-H-H!

DEAD! IT DOESN'T MATTER! I KNOW NOW WHERE THE BOOK IS! OLD LUNG FONG'S GARDEN... IN A SHRINE, HE SAID! I KNEW IT! I KNEW THE BOOK WAS IN THE CITY! HA, HA!



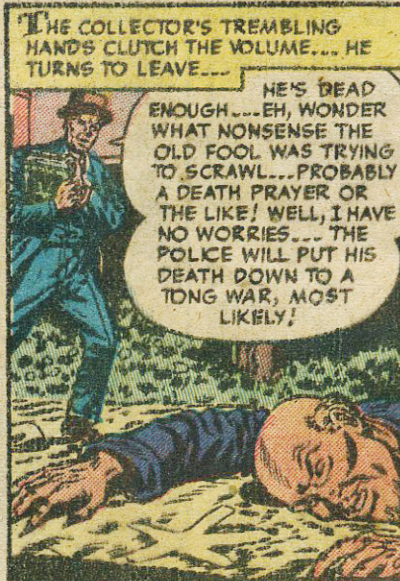
LATER, THE COLLECTOR WHO HAS MADE MURDER HIS CALLING CARD REACHES LUNG FONG'S HOME!

LUNG FONG... THE WISEST, MOST FAMOUS RESIDENT OF CHINATOWN... WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF HIM BEFORE! AH, HE KEEPS THE BOOK LOCKED IN THAT SHRINE... HE'LL NEVER RELEASE IT TO ME FOR ANY PRICE! NO, ONE MORE MURDER WON'T MATTER... IT IS THE ONLY WAY!





LAMONT IS FILLED WITH A WILD FRENZY AS HE FACES THE SHRINE! ONLY MOMENTS, SCANT MOMENTS NOW AND A LIFETIME SEARCH WILL BE ENDED!



SUDDENLY, LAMONT'S SENSES REEL! ICY FINGERS OF FEAR CLUTCH AT HIS HEART AND---

WHA...T-THE EXECUTIONERS!



GOOD HEAVENS! W-WHAT'S HAPPENED TO ME! I-I'M DRESSED LIKE YUNG TOY! THEY'RE GOING TO KILL ME!

THE SENTENCE OF DEATH HAS BEEN PASSED UPON YOU YUNG TOY!



NO, NO! IT'S ALL A HORRIBLE MISTAKE! I'M NOT YUNG TOY!

DIE! DIE!



YAAAAA



FINALLY, THE CLOUD OF PAIN LIFTS...

A-A VISION... IT WAS ALL A VISION! G-GREAT GLORY... WHAT A GHASTLY SENSATION!

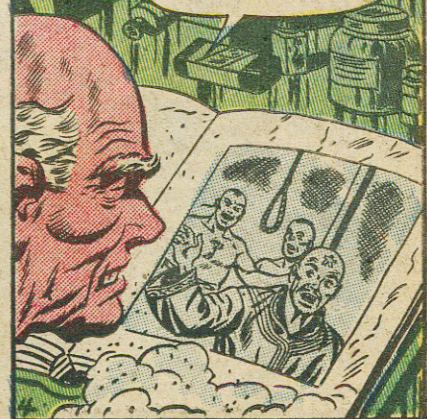


T-THE EXCITEMENT... IT MUST HAVE BEEN A REACTION CAUSED BY MY ANXIETY! YES... YES, I'LL REST A WHILE BEFORE I OPEN THE NEXT PAGE!

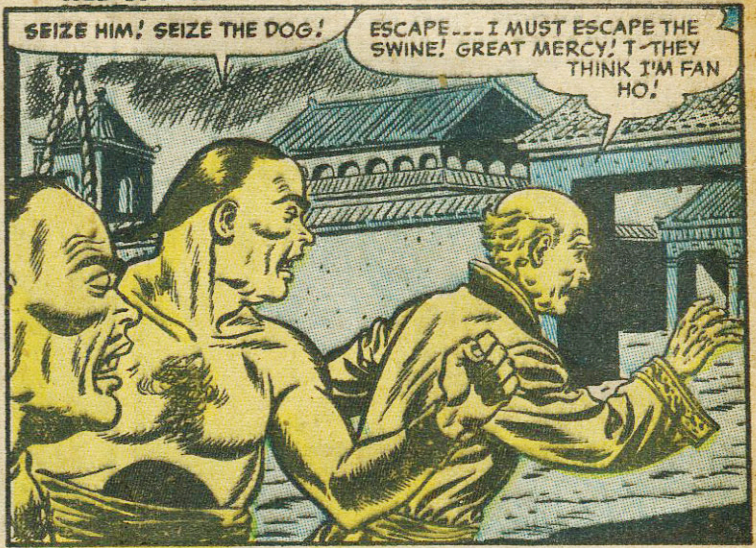


AT MIDNIGHT, AND ONCE AGAIN CALM AND COMPOSED, LAMONT RETURNS TO WORK ON THE BOOK OF THE DEAD!

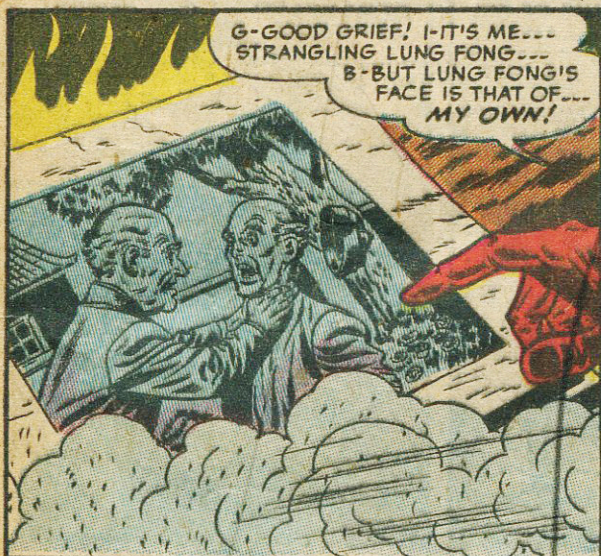
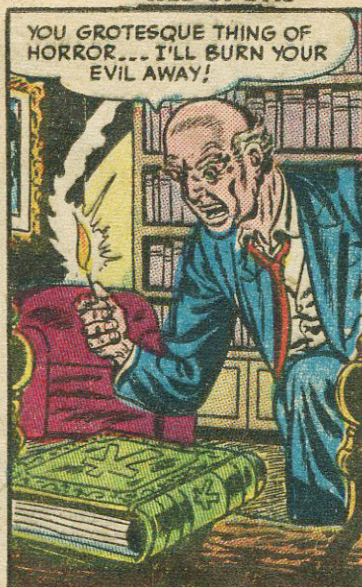
PHIEW! BLAST THAT DUST!...AH! THE ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF THE CHINESE EMPEROR FAN HO!

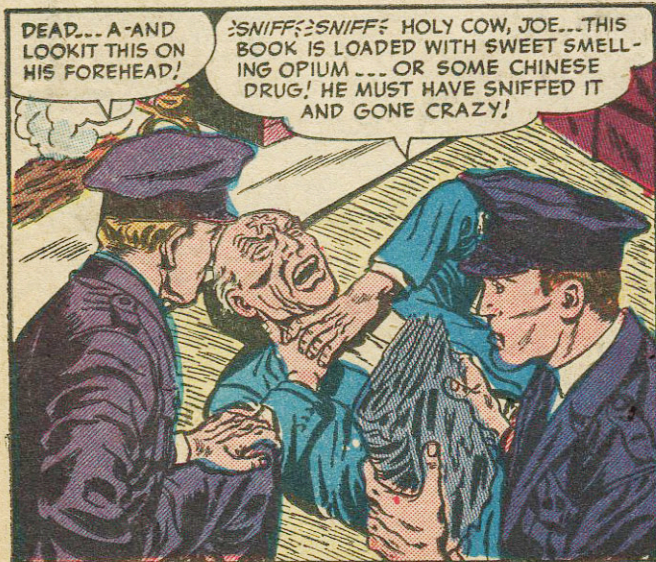


WEB OF EVIL



WEB OF EVIL







Uncle Bernie's FUN SHOP

BUY NOW at our LOW LOW PRICES!

NEW! ELECTRIC REMOTE CONTROL

"Electra-JEEP" The new 1952 sensation!

\$3.98

A terrific buy at this price!

RUSH ORDER TODAY!

• GOES FORWARD • REVERSE • LEFT • RIGHT • MOTOR
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NEW! AMAZING! Portable WALL SHOWER

Just like a Built-in Shower!

• NO-SPLASH SHAMPOO SPRAY • ATTACHES TO ANY SURFACE
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HOUSE THAT JACK BUILT
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hello! I'm RITA!
I drink I wet ishep and you can WAVE MY HAIR!

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FREE HAIR WAVE KIT!

SENSATIONAL DRINK AND WET DOLL in washable rubber WONDERSKIN with life-like hair and realistic hair-wave kit complete with:

- ... plastic curlers,
- ... rubber waving bands,
- ... waving and papers,
- ... plastic comb and ...
- ... bottle of doll hair lotion.

ADORABLE RITA, 11 inches tall, has sparkling blue eyes that open and close — she drinks from her bottle with rubber nipple (included) and then wets her diaper. You can bathe her — move her cuddly arms, legs and head — make her stand, walk and sleep.

TERRIFIC VALUE! ONLY \$3.98

complete

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DEATH'S Challenge

"Ghosts!" Constable Jack Belden snorted, disgusted. "Haunted houses! Baloney! You remind me of a country kid at a spook movie."

Dr. Howard turned from studying the contorted body on the floor. "And you, Constable, remind me of a stubborn mule. Five times in the last four years some poor vagrant or tramp has crawled into this old deserted house for shelter on a stormy night. And five times we've found them the next morning in this condition—with their severed heads hanging from that hook on the wall. What's your theory—that they tried to shave in the dark and accidentally lopped off their own heads?"

"My theory," Jack said flatly, "is that we've got a homicidal maniac in town. Somebody watches the house, sees a hobo sneak in and does the killing. I'll nail them someday, too."

The two men watched gloomily as the body of some unknown tramp was loaded into the undertaker's basket, the severed head placed in position and the whole lugged out. Dr. Howard, who was local coroner, turned for a last look at the gloomy old house with its air of sinister decay. Even now, under the morning sunlight, it breathed an aura of evil, of decay and death and perhaps worse. "For thirty years people have called it a haunted house. I'm no superstitious fool, but I agree with gossip. No human hand cut off those heads."

"Bah," Constable Belden snapped. "Tonight I'll slip into the house just before midnight and catch me a ghost. Keep this under your hat, Doc. I want to grab somebody red-handed."

Despite Dr. Howard's objections, Jack went through with his plan. A few minutes before midnight, dressed in old rags like a tramp, he prowled around the haunted house long enough to let a watcher see him, then crawled through a broken window. As he settled himself against a wall of the death room, the town clock boomed midnight. He touched the button of his flashlight lightly.

Jack eased his pistol from its holster and laid it, cocked and ready, in his lap. His handcuffs lay on the floor beside him. Every sense was tuned to the first sounds of an intruder. In the thick, dusty darkness, only a gray square showed

the window across the room. A night wind, blowing through the broken panes, stirred strips of ancient wallpaper into rustling motion. That was the only sound in the night. Not even a mouse scurried overhead, nor a cricket chirped. The stillness was the silence of a tomb.

Something like a chill breeze stirred the hairs on Jack's neck. Despite himself, a shiver touched his nerves. There was no sight, no sound, but suddenly he felt the presence of some immense, inhuman evil. It was in the room with him. The certainty of that filled his mind. *Something* was creeping near.

Swiftly he clicked on the light and swept the beam around. There was nothing in the room. The dust lay unstirred. He shut off the flash and the darkness closed in, and with it the sickening sense of an evil presence. Something touched his throat like a breath. A sharp, searing pain caught his neck so hard he gasped. The pain was gone and with it the ominous feeling of being watched.

Constable Belden sprang to his feet. Oddly his hands were empty, although he was sure that a moment before he had grasped both flashlight and pistol. He whirled sharply as a shaft of moonlight, released from the dark prison of the clouds, shot into the room.

There, against the wall where he had been sitting, was the slumped body of a man in ragged clothes. A pistol and flashlight lay in the dead lap. Where the figure's head should be there was only a horrifying nothingness, above the dull sheen of blood.

He looked up. A head hung from the crusted hook on the wall. The moonlight touched the staring eyes, the teeth bared by twisted lips. He stared at it and then the full, deep measure of knowledge swept over him.

The head on the hook was his own! The body on the floor was him! At midnight a *presence* had come and done its bloody deed and gone. Constable Jack Belden was the sixth victim. Knowing that, he turned and floated effortlessly, invisibly, out through the solid wall into the mystery of the night.

THE AVENGING GHOSTS

A-AW RIGHT...SO WE STOLE THE JEWELS AND MONEY! YOU GOT 'EM BACK...NOW LET US GO!

IT IS TOO LATE TO REPENT YOUR CRIMES, HUMANS! WE MUST HAVE OUR VENGEANCE!

W-WHATA YA GONNA DO... TO...US?

The SPECTRES OF THE SEA REACHED OUT TO PUNISH THE TWO CONVICTS WHO DARED TO COMMIT A CRIME ON THE ISLAND OF HONESTY! FOR THEY HAD TRESPASSED ON A TERRIFYING SUPERSTITION AND THUS WERE DESTINED TO SAIL THE SEAS OF HELL FOREVER!

OFF THE COAST OF SCOTLAND TWO FIGURES SCURRY THROUGH THE FOG TOWARD THE SHORE - LINE AND FREEDOM!

WE MADE IT, PETE! HA, HA! WE'RE FREE MEN!

SHUT UP AND SAVE YOUR BREATH! WE'RE NOT FREE TILL WE GET OUR BOAT OUTA HERE!

WHEEEEE!

WOW! HERE SHE IS... JUST LIKE THAT FISHERMAN WE PAID SAID! HA, HA! WE WERE CALLED THE SMARTEST CROOKS IN THE WORLD AND NOW WE'LL BE KNOWN AS THE BEST ESCAPE ARTISTS!

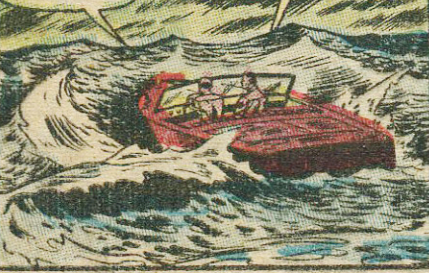
IN THE BOAT... FAST, JOEY!

WEB OF EVIL

THUS, THE "SMARTEST CROOKS IN THE WORLD" SET OFF THROUGH THE SWIRLING FOG!

WE HEAD DUE SOUTH DOWN THE COAST... THEN BEACH THIS TUB IN SOME REMOTE HARBOR AND HIT INLAND! BLAST IT! I CAN HARDLY SEE A THING THROUGH THIS FOG!

FIRST I'LL HAVE ME A THREE INCH THICK STEAK... 'COURSE, THAT'S AFTER WE MAKE A COUPLE OF HEISTS TO PUT SOME JINGLE IN OUR POCKETS!



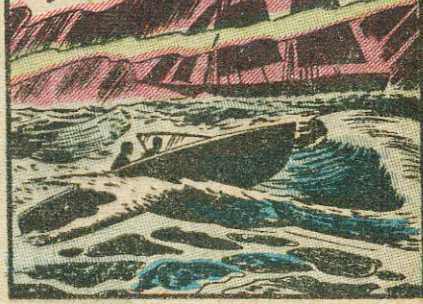
WILL YOU SHUT THAT STUPID MOUTH... EH! W-WHAT'S THAT?

EEEEEEEE!



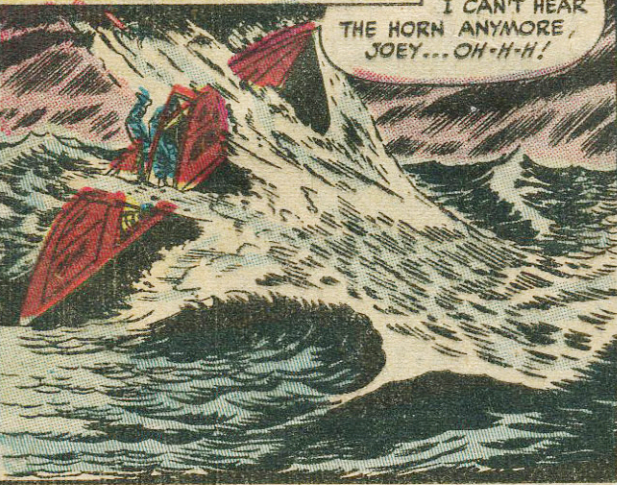
P-PETE... WHAT IS THAT THING? A-AN' THAT NOISE... I-IT MUST BE AN OLD BOAT OF SOME KIND... BUT I NEVER HEARD A BOAT'S FOG-HORN LIKE THAT THING!

HEEEAAAHH!



THE CONVICTS, AS IF HYPNOTIZED, PEER THROUGH THE TOSSING SPRAY WHEN SUDDENLY...

I CAN'T HEAR THE HORN ANYMORE, JOEY... OH-H-H!



THE HOURS PASS, NIGHT FALLS... AND AS DAWN COMES AGAIN...

W-WHERE ARE WE? SUFFERING CATS! JOEY! TAKE A LOOK AT THAT GOOP!

H-HUH?



LOOKIT 'EM! THEY SEEM TO BE COMING IN ANSWER TO THAT GUY'S HORN BLOWING! WHEW!

JEEPS! THEY LOOK LIKE THEY JUST ESCAPED A CIRCUS OR SOMETHIN'!

WELCOME, OH STRANGERS!



LOOK, OLD BOY... WE'RE KINDA LOST AROUND HERE! MIND TELLING US WHAT PART OF THE WOODS THIS IS?

WHY THIS IS THE ISLAND OF HONESTY, MY FRIEND! FEAR NOT, FOR ALL ARE WELCOME HERE! COME, WE WILL TEND YOUR WANTS!



WEB OF EVIL

SO IT IS, THAT THE MEN WHO DEAL IN CRIME PASS DOWN THE AVENUE OF HONESTY!

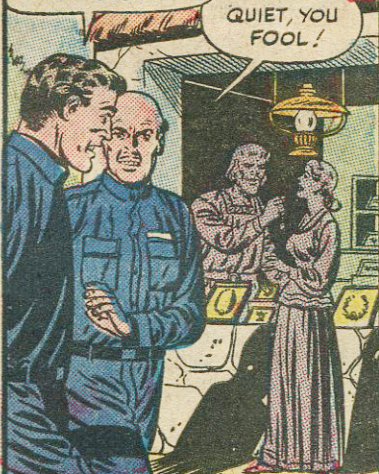
A BANK... WITHOUT BARS OR VAULTS!

CERTAINLY! THERE IS NO NEED TO SAFEGUARD WEALTH HERE ON THE ISLAND! THE BANK DOES ITS BUSINESS OUT IN THE OPEN!



JEWELS! JEWELS RIGHT OUT IN THE OPEN! THERE'S NO GLASS IN THE WINDOW! W-WHY, A GUY COULD JUST...

QUIET, YOU FOOL!



ON AND ON THE STUNNED DUO OF CRIME TAKE IN THE STARTLING VILLAGE!

YOU MEAN TO TELL ME NOBODY IN TOWN STEALS... THAT NOBODY EVER STOLE ANYTHING IN THIS VILLAGE?

NOT FOR FIFTY YEARS, STRANGER! IT WOULD INDEED BE A MAD FOOL WHO WOULD DO SUCH A THING!

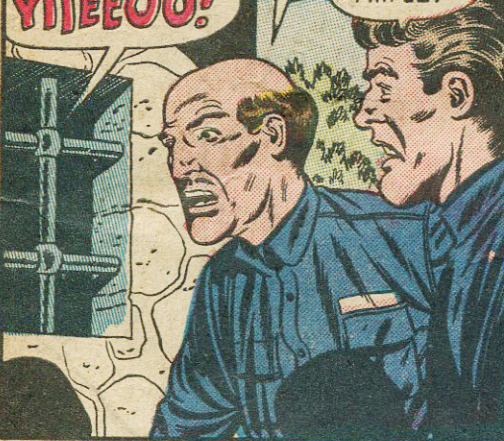


SUDDENLY...

OH-H-H! YIEE-OO!

HUH? WHAT'S THAT?

YEOW! SOMEBODY'S SUFFERING AWFUL!



AS ICY FINGERS OF FEAR CLUTCH THEIR SPINES THE ESCAPED CONVICTS PEER INSIDE!

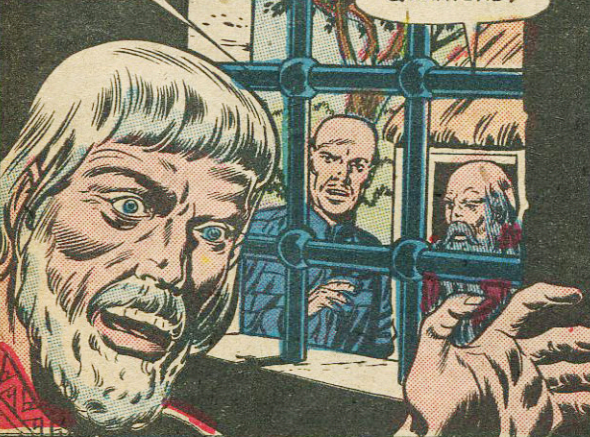
WHA...? YIPE!

OH-H-HH! BRRRRR! MERCY, MERCY...



W-WHO ARE THEY? WHAT'S WRONG WITH THEM?

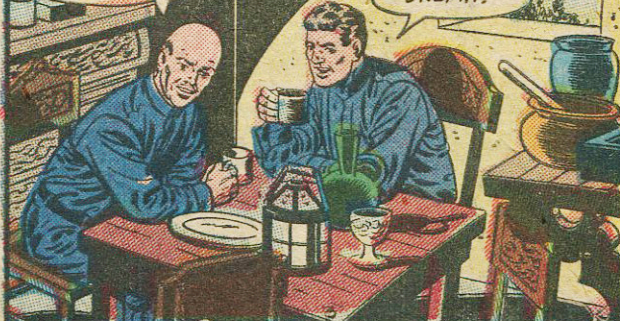
THAT IS THE SECRET OF THE VILLAGE! COME BACK AT ONCE! THE TOMB OF PAIN IS TABOO TO STRANGERS! IT IS TIME I TOOK YOU TO YOUR QUARTERS!



LATER, THE CURIOSITY OF THE PAIR FADES AS VISIONS OF WEALTH FLOOD THEIR MINDS!

UGH! THIS NUTTY VILLAGE GIVES ME THE CREEPS... BUT BEFORE WE LEAVE THERE ARE THINGS WE SHOULD DO!

YEAH, PETE, I WUZ THINKING THE SAME! ALL THAT DOUGH, AND JEWELS DOWN THERE! WE CAN FILL THE LAUNCH WITH SUPPLIES FROM TOWN AND MAKE A QUICK BREAK!



WEB OF EVIL

THE TOWN SLEEPS... BUT THE HAND OF CRIME MOVES IN THE LITTLE VILLAGE!

WHAT A HAUL! WE'LL BE RICH FOR LIFE, PETE!

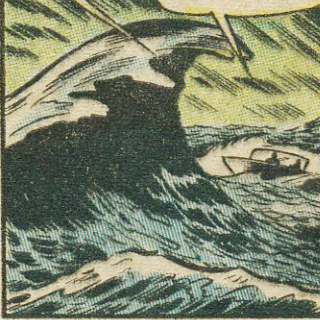
WAS LIKE SWIPING APPLES FROM THE CORNER FRUIT STAND! LET'S GET GOING BEFORE THESE CRACKPOTS WAKE UP AND CAUSE US TROUBLE!



ONCE AGAIN, THE DENIZENS OF EVIL SAIL INTO THE MIST! AND ONCE AGAIN A HUGE WAVE CONFRONTS THEM!

BLAST THIS OCEAN... LOOK AT THAT HUGE WAVE!

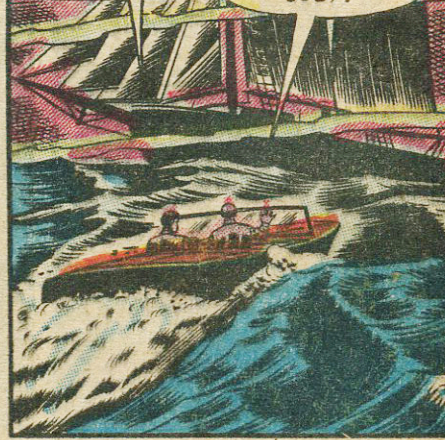
WHO CARES? THIS BOAT CAN TAKE IT... WE'LL BE MILLIONAIRES WHEN WE GET TO SHORE!



THEN, THE HOWL OF THE WIND TAKES ON A FRESH, OMINOUS NOTE AND...

T-THAT BOAT... IT'S HERE AGAIN!

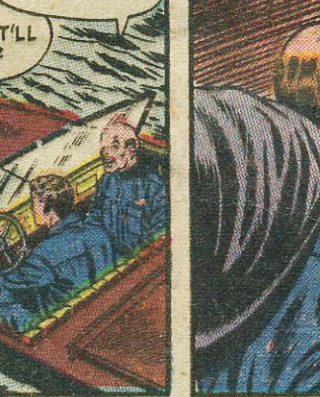
GREAT GRIEF! FASTER, FASTER, JOEY!



YOU HAD BEST COME ABOARD, PETE AND JOEY! YOUR MOTOR CANNOT RUN WHILE WE ARE PRESENT! HA, HA!



I-IT AIN'T HUMAN! HE... CONKED OUT OUR MOTOR SOMEHOW!



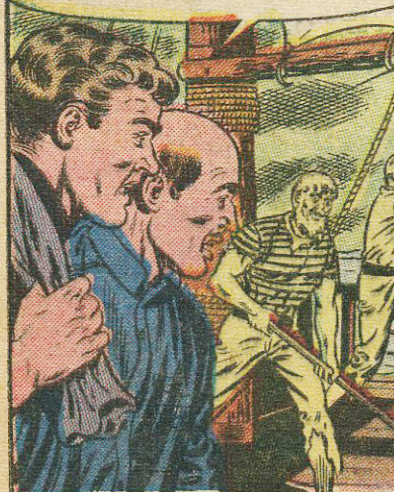
TAKE IT EASY, JOEY! WITH ALL THIS CASH WE CAN BRIBE OUR WAY TO SHORE! HECK! WE'LL BUY THEIR CRAZY VESSEL!



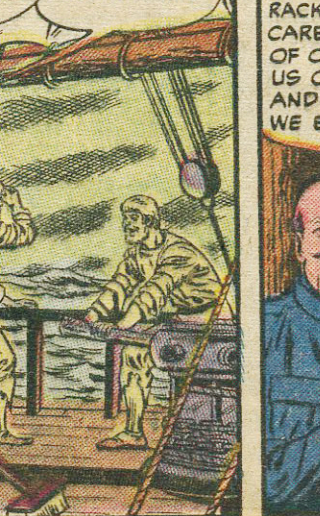
YEAH, YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT, PETE! I FORGOT WE'RE RICH!



YIIII! LOOK, PETE... THOSE THINGS... THEY'RE ACTING JUST LIKE THE GUYS WE SAW IN THE VILLAGE!



YEAH-H-HH!

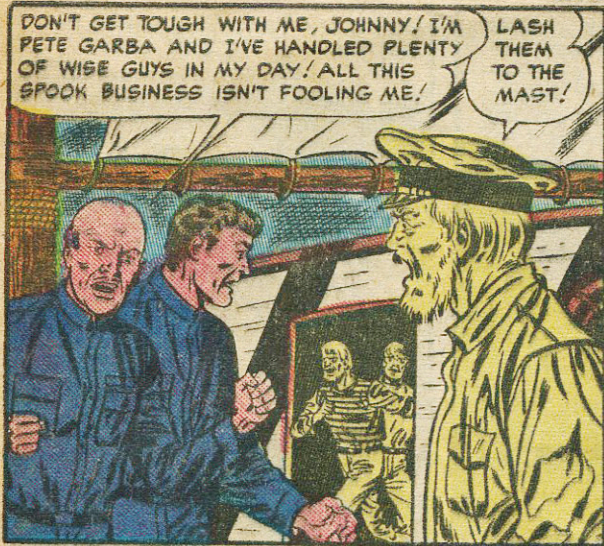


LISTEN, BUSTER, I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOUR RACKET IS AND I DON'T CARE! HERE'S A BUNDLE OF CASH... JUST DROP US OFF ON THE COAST AND WE'LL FORGET WE EVER SAW YOU!



HEE, HEE! I'M AFRAID YOU CAN NEVER DO THAT, PETE! YOU SEE, FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE YOU WILL BE SAILING WITH US UP AND DOWN THE COAST... FOREVER!





That
NIGHT,
AND THE
NEXT,
AND THE
NEXT
THE
GHOSTS
SHIP
CAREENS
THROUGH
THE
SWIRLING
MIST AND
STILL,
THE
VICTIMS
ARE
HELPLESS!



WEB OF EVIL

FINALLY, AS A CLEARING SHOWS IN THE CLOUDS...

LOOK! LOOK, PETE! T-THE MOON'S FULL! WE'RE SUNK! IT'S TOO LATE TO ESCAPE!

WHA...? NO, NO... THERE'S ONLY A LITTLE LEFT TO GO! HURRY... HURRY, JOEY! WE HAVE A FEW MINUTES TO BREAK THESE BONDS!

DESPERATELY, JOEY'S FINGERS WORK THE FILE! AN HOUR, TWO HOURS PASS, THEN...

HURRY, HURRY! OVER THE SIDE BEFORE THE MONSTERS STOP US!

HA, HA, HA! HEE, HEE, HEE!

BACK... BACK TO THE STERN, JOEY!

YOU CANNOT ESCAPE US, FOOLS! RUN... RUN FOR YOUR LIVES!

T-THEY'RE ONLY SPECTRES, JOEY... JUMP! JUMP RIGHT THROUGH THEM!

Y-YEAH, PETE!

YAAAAA!

DAWN... AUTHORITIES ON THE SCOTTISH COAST GATHER ABOUT A WEIRD SIGHT!

T-THAT'S JUST HOW I FOUND THEM, SIR! WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE HAPPENED TO THEM? EVIDENTLY THEIR BOAT SANK WHEN THEY TRIED TO ESCAPE!

GOOD GRIEF! THEY'RE BOTH OUT OF THEIR HEADS!

OH-H-H! BRRRR!

WELL, THEY'VE ESCAPED GOING BACK TO PRISON ALL RIGHT! THESE BIRDS ARE GOING INTO THE INSANE ASYLUM! CARRY THEM GENTLY AS YOU CAN... THEIR MINDS ARE COMPLETELY GONE!

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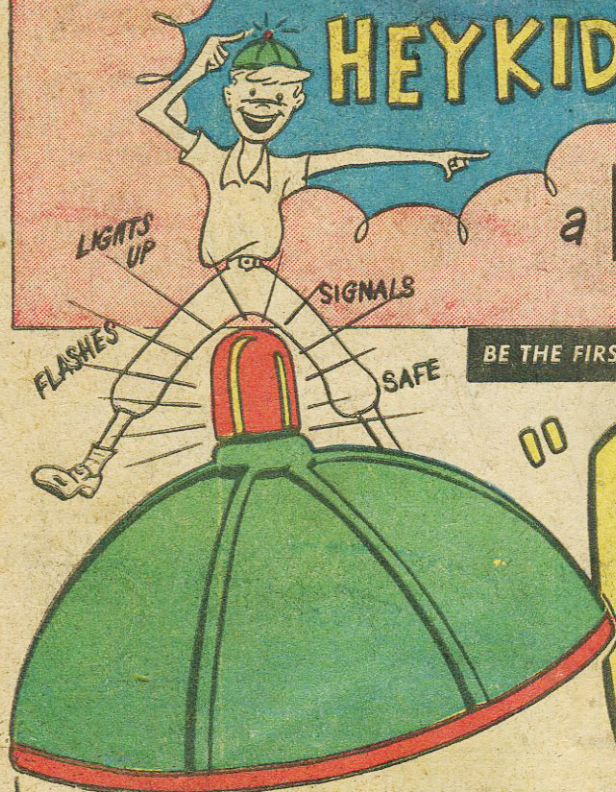
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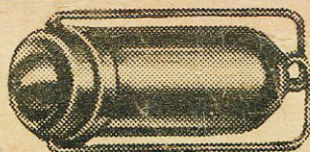
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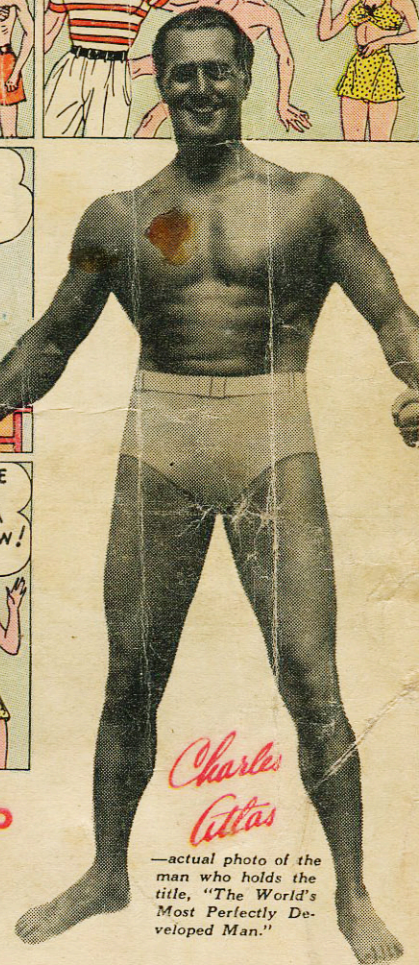
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